

**MARKET HARBOROUGH  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**



# **Annual Report**

**OF THE**

**Medical Officer of Health**

**For the Year 1948**

**R. W. KIND, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.**

**Medical Officer of Health**



# Market Harborough Rural District Council.

## ANNUAL REPORT.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	45,166
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1947) according to rate books	...	...	...	...	2,307
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1947	...	...	...	...	42,307
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£162 (estimated)
POPULATION :—(See also Appendix A).					
1947, Registrar-General's estimate	...	...	...	...	9,180

TABLE showing the Registrar General's estimate of the population trends during the present decade:—

1940	...	9,265	1944	...	9,110
1941	...	9,688	1945	...	8,713
1942	...	9,448	1946	...	8,809
1943	...	9,497	1947	...	9,311
			1948	...	9,810

BIRTHS :—				1947	1948
Live Births :—	Legitimate	Male	...	106	90
		Female	...	76	66
		Total	...	182	156
	Illegitimate	Male	...	4	5
		Female	...	7	4
		Total	...	11	9
	Total live births	Male	...	110	95
		Female	...	83	70
		Total	...	193	165
Stillbirths :—	Legitimate	Male	...	—	1
		Female	...	2	1
		Total	...	2	2
	Illegitimate	Male	...	—	—
		Female	...	—	—
		Total	...	—	—
	Total Stillbirths	Male	...	—	1
		Female	...	2	1
		Total	...	2	2

<i>Birthrate per 1,000 estimated population :—</i>		1947	1948
	Market Harborough ...	20.1	17.1
	England and Wales ...	20.5	17.9
<i>Illegitimate birthrate per 1,000 live births :—</i>			
	Market Harborough ...	57.0	60.6
<i>Stillbirths :—</i>	Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths ...	10.4	11.9
<i>Stillbirths :—</i>	Rate per 1,000 estimated population :—		
	Market Harborough ...	0.21	0.20
	England and Wales ...	0.50	0.42

TABLE showing the changes in the total live births and in the birth rates during the present decade.

Year	Total live Births Mkt. Harboro'	Birth Rates. (per 1,000 population).		
		Market Harborough	Leicester -shire.	England & Wales.
1940	102	11.0	15.1	14.6
1941	116	11.8	14.6	14.2
1942	114	12.1	17.3	15.8
1943	167	17.6	19.6	16.5
1944	181	19.9	21.1	17.6
1945	134	15.4	18.8	16.1
1946	172	19.5	20.6	19.1
1947	193	20.1	21.2	20.5
1948	165	17.1	18.84	17.9

<i>DEATHS :—</i>		1947	1948
<i>Total number of Deaths :—</i>			
	Male ...	61	53
	Female ...	52	48
	Total ...	113	101

<i>Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population :—</i>			
	Market Harborough ...	12.1	10.29
	England and Wales ...	12.0	10.8

TABLE showing the changes in the total number of deaths and in the death rates during the present decade.

Year	Total Deaths. Market Harborough.	Death Rate. (per 1,000 population). Not corrected for age or for sex distribution of the population.		
		Market Harborough.	Leicester- shire.	England & Wales.
1940	138	14.9	12.4	14.3
1941	124	12.8	11.0	12.9
1942	118	12.5	10.4	11.6
1943	111	11.7	11.3	12.1
1944	107	11.7	11.2	11.6
1945	134	15.4	11.1	11.4
1946	87	9.9	10.7	11.5
1947	113	12.1	11.3	12.0
1948	101	10.29	9.77	10.8

Deaths from puerperal causes :— 1947 1948

*No. of deaths :—*

Puerperal sepsis ... ..	—	—
Other puerperal causes ... ..	—	—

*Rate per 1,000 live and still births :—*

Market Harborough ... ..	—	—
England and Wales ... ..	1.17	1.02

*Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—*

*No. of Deaths :—*

Legitimate	Male ...	2	1
	Female ...	2	—
	Total ...	4	1
Illegitimate	Male ...	—	—
	Female ...	1	—
	Total ...	1	—
Total infant deaths ... ..		5	1

Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births :—

Market Harborough ... ..	25.9	6.06
England and Wales ... ..	41	34



TABLE showing the deaths of infants under one year and infant mortality rates during the present decade.

Year.	Total Infant Deaths.	Infant Mortality Rates per 1,000 live Births.		
		Market Harborough.	Leicester- shire.	England & Wales.
1938	6	55.6	44	53
1939	5	50.5	46	40
1940	2	19.6	46	55
1941	3	25.9	50	59
1942	6	52.6	47	49
1943	3	18.0	42	49
1944	3	16.6	37	46
1945	5	37.3	36	46
1946	3	17.4	35	43
1947	5	25.9	43	41
1948	1	6.06	32.2	34

*Causes of Death :—*

*Registrar-General's Classifications :—*

	1947			1948		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Scarlet fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Whooping cough ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	1	1	2	1	—	1
7. Tuberculosis, non-respiratory	—	—	—	1	—	1
8. Syphilitic diseases ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Influenza ... ..	—	1	1	1	—	1
10. Measles ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
12. Acute infectious encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M) & uterus (F)	—	—	—	2	1	3
14. Cancer of stomach or duodenum ... ..	1	2	3	2	2	4
15. Cancer of breast ... ..	—	3	3	0	1	1
16. Cancer, all other sites ...	8	6	14	4	8	12
17. Diabetes ... ..	1	—	1	—	—	—
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	7	7	14	5	3	8
19. Heart disease ... ..	20	21	41	16	11	27

CONTINUATION—*Registrar-General's Classifications :—*

				1947			1948		
				<i>M. F. Total</i>			<i>M. F. Total</i>		
20.	Other diseases of the cir-								
	culatory system ...	...	...	2	—	2	1	1	2
21.	Bronchitis ...	...	...	2	2	4	6	6	12
22.	Pneumonia ...	...	...	3	1	4	3	2	5
23.	Other respiratory diseases			—	1	1	1	—	1
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum			1	1	2	—	1	1
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs. of age)			—	—	—	—	—	—
26.	Appendicitis ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
27.	Other digestive diseases ...			1	2	3	—	1	1
28.	Nephritis ...	...	...	3	—	3	2	2	4
29.	Puerperal and post abortion								
	sepsis ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
30.	Other maternal causes ...			—	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Premature birth ...	...	...	1	1	2	—	—	—
32.	Congenital malformation, birth								
	injuries, infantile diseases			—	1	1	1	—	1
33.	Suicide ...	...	...	2	—	2	—	—	—
34.	Road traffic accidents ...			2	—	2	3	—	3
35.	Other violent causes ...			2	—	2	—	1	1
36.	All other causes ...	...	...	4	2	6	4	8	12
	Total deaths, all causes			61	52	113	53	48	101

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Sanitary Inspector :—

Mr. R. W. Turner, M.S.I.A., A.R. San. I.

I am indebted to Mr. R. W. Turner for the following information upon the sanitary circumstances of the area :—

*WATER SUPPLY.*

The mains supplies of water have been satisfactory ; the well supplies have been in some cases fair only. All the wells are shallow wells, and therefore liable contamination, even though most are cement rendered and all precautions are taken. Samples of well water were taken and proved to be unsatisfactory in seven out of twelve cases.

In all villages without mains supply there have been very pronounced shortages, in particular in the villages of Church Langton, East Langton, Stonton Wyville, Shangton, Saddington and Husbands Bosworth, and in these villages some 53,000 gallons of water were carted and distributed by this authority's vehicles and workmen.

Samples of mains supplies of water were taken for bacteriological and chemical analysis by the suppliers and were found to be satisfactory.

(a) Number of dwelling-houses having a piped water supply laid into the houses	...	...	...	...	1513
(b) Number of parishes with a piped water supply—					
from public mains	...	...	...	...	6
from private reservoirs	...	...	...	...	2
(c) Number of parishes without a piped supply of water					23
(d) Number of cases in which piped supply was substituted for well water	...	...	...	...	139

The work of laying mains in Foxton was completed, and up to the present approximately half the houses in the village have been connected. The village has a population of 321 (1931), and 88 dwelling houses.

Formal approval has been given to the laying of mains from Carlton Reservoir to the villages of Shangton, Tur, East, West and Thorpe Langton and extensions from Fleckney to the parish of Saddington.

No. of wells cleansed, etc. (Public)	...	...	...	...	3
No. of houses relying on wells supplies	...	...	...	...	1237
No. of samples taken from wells for chemical analysis—					
(a) Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	5
(b) Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	7

#### SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

No. of cesspools constructed during the year	...	...	...	...	5
No. of cesspools abolished during the year	...	...	...	...	1
Total number in the district, Dec. 31st, 1947	...	...	...	...	184

This total number of cesspools is the result of a recent comprehensive survey and is accurate.

The only work carried out was the relaying of a broken length of sewer at Great Easton and the installation of manholes in various villages to facilitate cleansing and flushing.

There are 8 filter systems and 3 land irrigation sewage disposal systems in the district.

#### *Post-War Proposals.*

The proposal approved in 1947 regarding new sewers at Smeeton Westerby and joint outfall works at Kibworth Beauchamp has been and still is held up on account of cost and priority. Schemes for Drayton, Theddingworth, Shangton and the five Langtons are in the hands of the Authority's Engineers. New works at Shangton and the Langtons will become essential because of the proposed water scheme.



*CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.*

Total numbers in the District on 31st Dec., 1947 :—

(a) Privies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	165
(b) Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	95
(c) Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2026
Number of privies converted to the water carriage system during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of pail closets converted to the water carriage system during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

As in 1946, all earth closets, privies, private cesspools, etc., are cleansed by the occupiers. Public cesspools are cleaned out at as near three monthly intervals as the hire of the Market Harborough Urban District Council's gully emptier and weather conditions permit.

*PUBLIC CLEANSING.*

House refuse is removed fortnightly by direct labour. Two motor vehicles, one of 5, one of 7 cubic yards capacity (covered) are used. These cover the whole area.

Trade refuse is removed on application. Charges are made in accordance with the time and distance from the nearest tip.

Four crude tips are in use at Kibworth, Foxton, Hallaton and Husbands Bosworth.

*SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.*

Total number of complaints received	...	...	...	...	116
Total number of defects or nuisances discovered	...	...	...	...	100

*Sanitary Inspections of the Area.*

Animal Keeping	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	417
Drainage Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	963
Dwelling houses (all purposes)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1032
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Rats and Mice Destruction	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	173
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Verminous premises and scabies	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	992
Workshops, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Other Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	378

Total Inspections	...	...	...	...	4,077
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<i>Notices served during the year :—</i>	Preliminary Housing.	Re-visits. Public Health
Outstanding on January 1st, 1947	14	10
Issued during the year ... ..	39	129
Complied with during the year ...	43	124
Statutory Action necessary ... ..	—	—
Outstanding on December 31st, 1947	10	15

### *CAMPING SITES.*

No. of sites in area used for camping purposes during the year ... ..	None used frequently.
No. of Camping Sites for which licences have been issued ... ..	Nil

### *REGULATED BUILDINGS.*

No. of Tents, Vans, Sheds in the area	1
No. of Inspections made ... ..	6
Action taken ... ..	Informal action taken as a result of which the persons left the district.

### *RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.*

Tips are regularly disinfected by contract with L.A.E.C. Clearing of small infestations carried out by Council workmen, and occupiers charged on time and material basis.

### *SCHOOLS.*

Church Langton School was examined periodically with regard to water supplies, and water was carted by the Council throughout the year.

### *SWIMMING BATHS & POOLS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.*

No. in the area (a) publicly owned ... ..	Nil
(b) privately owned ... ..	1
No. of Inspections made ... ..	Nil

### *INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.*

#### *MILK :—*

##### *(a) Cowkeepers.*

Number on Register ... ..	157
Number of Inspections made ... ..	407
No. of contraventions outstanding ... ..	10
„ found during the year ... ..	30
„ remedied during the year ... ..	30
„ outstanding 31st Dec. 1947 ... ..	10

##### *(b) Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers).*

No. on Register ... ..	2
No. of Inspections made ... ..	10
No. of Contravention founds ... ..	Nil

*Total Contraventions :—**Cleansing—*

Outstanding from previous year ... ..	6
Found during the year ... ..	25
Remedied during the year ... ..	26
Outstanding on Dec. 31st 1948 ... ..	5

*Structural Alterations.*

Outstanding from previous year ... ..	4
Found during the year ... ..	5
Remedied during the year ... ..	4
Outstanding on Dec. 31st, 1948 ... ..	5

*Milk Sampling :—**Ordinary Milk :—*

No. of samples taken for bacteriological examination ... ..	47
No. found to be satisfactory ... ..	47
No. found to be unsatisfactory ... ..	Nil

*The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936—1946.*

No. of licences issued in respect of Accredited Bottling ... ..	Nil
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*ICE CREAM.**No. of premises registered :—*

Manufacture and retail ... ..	3
Manufacture only ... ..	—
Retail only ... ..	6
No. of samples taken ... ..	—

The greater part of the area is serviced by Ice Cream Vendors from Leicester, Uppingham and Market Harborough.

**MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.**

There are no Regional Slaughterhouses in the area. Pigs slaughtered by local cottagers are examined on request. Ten examinations have been made at the time of slaughter.

There are no Knackers' Yards in the area.

*Food Condemned during the year :—*

Bread ... ..	66 lbs.
Tinned tongue ... ..	6 lbs.
Pork Sausage ... ..	2 lbs.
Tinned Foods ... ..	37½ lbs.
Marmalade ... ..	36 lbs.
Bacon ... ..	70 lbs.
Tinned Sausage ... ..	27 lbs.
Salad Dressing ... ..	24 doz. (5 oz. bots.)
Powdered Milk ... ..	14 lbs.

No. of inspections made at Meat Shops, Stores, etc. ...	27
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## HOUSING.

1. *New Houses.*

Total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of the year ... ..	484
In the majority of cases the applications are from newly married couples and people wishing for better housing accommodation.	
No. of houses completed during the year by Local Authority (permanent) ... ..	73
Average cost per house ... ..	£1400
Average rent, inc. or exc. of Rates ... ..	11/6
Houses completed by private enterprise ... ..	3
Houses in course of erection at end of year, by Local Authority (permanent) ... ..	22
Average cost per house ... ..	£1400
Average rent ... ..	11/6
Total number of post-war houses completed :—	
(1) Local Authority ... ..	131
(2) Private enterprise ... ..	5

2. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.*

(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected during the year for Housing Defects (Under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	500
Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	1780
(b) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be in a state unfit for human habitation (as per Hobhouse Report)	249
(c) Number of houses (exclusive of those referred to in sub-heading preceding) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	500

3. *Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice.*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers ... ..	35
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4. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year* ... .. Nil5. *Housing Act, 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding :—*

The number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year is unknown.

With regard to the overcrowding section of the Housing Act, there were so many houses overcrowded as can be evinced from the number of applications for Council houses, and conditions change so repeatedly owing to demobilisation, etc., that overcrowding is only taken into consideration when actual Council houses are to let, and in these instances all applicants' houses are inspected.



*Housing Survey.*

(a) Total number of houses to be surveyed	...	...	2,478
(b) R.V. limit of houses to be surveyed	...	...	£16
(c) No. of houses surveyed to 31st Dec. 1947	...	...	2,478
(d) Classification 1.	...	...	1,071
2.	...	...	591
3.	...	...	271
4.	...	...	296
5.	...	...	249
(e) Total number of occupied houses in the district	...	2,826	
(f) Total number of Council houses occupied in district		349	

As in 1947 there are still many villages where water and sewage disposal are of the crudest character, and although this Council is willing to do everything possible to remedy the same, the processes with regard to the financial side are very, very slow.

*Table 1.*

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Table showing the cases of infectious disease notified during the year :—

Age Group.	Measles		Whooping Cough		Scarlet Fever		Erysipelas	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	2	...	...	..	...	...	...
3	6	5	...	1	2	3	...	...
5	7	12	...	...	5	5	...	...
10	1	1	...	...	4	2	...	...
15	1	2	...	...	1	...	...	...
25	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
45	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total:	16	22	—	1	12	11	1	—

Table 2.

Table showing new cases and deaths from Tuberculosis during the year :—

Age Group.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	..	...	...	...	..	...	1	...
3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	4	2	1	...	...	...	...	...
45	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
65	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Total :	7	2	1	—	—	1	1	—

Table 3.

Table showing the occurrence of diseases by parishes :—

Parish	Pulmon- ary Tuber- culosis	Non- Pulmon- ary Tuber- culosis	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas
Blaston ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	...
Husbands Bosworth	...	1	...	...	...	...
Bringhamst ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Craneoe ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Drayton ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Easton Magna ...	...	...	...	...	3	...
Fleckney ... ..	2	...	3	...	1	...
Foxton ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	...
Glooston ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gumley ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...
Hallaton ... ..	...	...	8	...	1	...
Holt ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Horninghold ...	...	...	4	...	...	...
Kibworth Bcp. ...	2	...	13	...	9	...
Kibworth Hct. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Langton East ...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Langton Thorpe ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Langton Tur. ...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Langton West. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Laughton ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	...
Lubenham ... ..	...	...	1	1	...	...
Medbourne ... ..	...	...	7	...	1	...
Mowsley ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	...
Saddington ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Shangton ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Slawston ... ..	...	...	1	...	1	...
Smeeton Westerby	...	...	...	...	...	...
Stockerston ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Stonton Wyville ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Theddingworth ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Welham ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ... ..	5	1	38	1	23	1

*Factories Act, 1937 and 1948.*

Premises.	No. on Register.	Inspections made.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	23	7
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is to be enforced by Local Authority	44	17
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	10	12
Total :	77	36



*Outwork (Section 110 and 111).*

Nature of Work	No. of Workers on List.
Wearing apparel—Making, etc.	100

*Appendix A.*

There is located in the district a National Assistance Board Polish Hostel, the residents of which were as follows on December 31st, 1948.

Males over 15 years	...	...	...	...	202
Males under 15 years	...	...	...	...	59
					—
Total—Males	...	...	...	...	261
					—
Females over 15 years	...	...	...	...	184
Females under 15 years	...	...	...	...	71
					—
Total—Females	...	...	...	...	255
					—
Total number of residents	...	...	...	...	516
Total number of British Staff (Males)	...	...	...	...	5

From this camp were received Notifications of four cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (included in Table 2 but omitted from Table 3).

Also notified to this district and accepted in error were the following cases relating to the Polish Hostel at Husbands Bosworth, (technically situated within Brixworth Rural District).

Measles	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	4
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	1
Benign Tertis Malaria (relapse)	...	...	...	...	...	2





